

REMARKS

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's position, and solely to expedite prosecution, claims 1 – 2, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, dependent Claims 4-6, and 11-12 have been rewritten to include the language and limitations of the canceled base claims. Applicants submit that claims 4-6 and 11-12, cited by Examiner as allowable if re-written in independent form, now stand in condition for allowance.

In addition, Applicants have re-written claims 7 – 8 to include the limitations of Claim 4. Claim 10 has been re-written to include the limitations of Claims 4 and 7.

Applicants have added new Claims 13 – 17. Claims 13-16 incorporate the limitations of Claim 11. Claim 17 includes the limitations of Claim 4.

Applicants submit that the prior art references relied upon by Examiner fail to teach or suggest Applicant's currently claimed invention. More specifically, the prior art fails to teach a polishing method such that a processing solution is applied in a substantially parallel direction to the surface to remove projecting portions of the applied film, said method further comprising the use of a chelating agent. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance. Applicants have also added new claim 40 which alternately defines the invention by specifying the fluid channel that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record.

Appl. No. 09/963,966
Amdt. Dated April 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

4/2/04


Robert J. Depke

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLC

131 S. Dearborn, 30th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Tel: (312) 263-3600

Attorney for Applicant

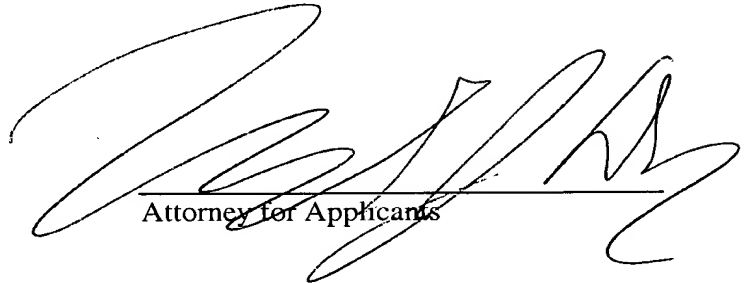
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Attorney for Applicants